# State Noxious Weed Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, November 17, 2010 Colorado Department of Agriculture 700 Kipling Street, Lakewood

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Susan Panjabi at 10:00AM.

Members in attendance: Susan Panjabi, Phyllis Lake, Scott Nissen, Jay Jutten, Karen Scopel, Don Hijar, Steve Anthony, Fred Midcap, Ben Duke, Randy Malcom, Ken Harper

Members excused: Jimmy Dunn, Terri Schulz, Sheila Grother, Susan Johnson

Staff present: Crystal Andrews, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Eric Lane, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Steve Ryder, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Jim Walker, Colorado Department of Transportation.

- 1. Introductions and opening comments:
  - a. Susan and the Committee welcomed the new members:
    - Fred Midcap from Wiggins representing agricultural producers.
    - Ben Duke from Elizabeth representing agricultural producers.
    - Randy Malcom from Limon representing private landowners.
    - Ken Harper from Edwards representing an at-large seat.
  - b. The Committee welcomed new State Weed Coordinator, Steve Ryder. Roundtable introductions and comments followed.
- 2. Review agenda-call for additions/corrections:
  - a. No changes were made to the agenda.
- 3. Review minutes of the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - a. Karen moved to approve the minutes, Jay seconded, seeing no discussion motion went to vote, all in favor, motion carries.
- 4. Overview of Committee responsibilities:
  - a. Eric discussed the background and history of the State Weed Committee. He reviewed the Weed Law and how the State Weed Committee was created through the Weed Law. He mentioned how state statute designates the composition of the Committee. The committee represents important perspectives and diverse interests dedicated to a common purpose-the management of noxious weeds in Colorado. The Committee is capped at 15 citizens, with two of those positions being at-large seats The functions of the State Advisory Committee are as follows:

- Designation of noxious weeds
- Classification of noxious weeds
- Development and implementation of management plans for listed species
- Prescriptive techniques and management for listed species.

Eric summarized the committee's role by stating that the Committee makes recommendations on what species should be on the list and how they should be managed. Eric expressed appreciation to the group for their commitment of time and energy.

#### 5. Plant assessment results

a. Crystal led the discussion and asked Scott Nissen to brief the new members on the PAF (Plant assessment form) process. Scott gave the group background on the PAF procedure. The PAF we use is based upon the PAF developed for use by California, Nevada, and Arizona. The PAF's can help determine how much of a threat a particular plant species is to the health of ecological and agricultural ecosystems.

Crystal followed up by describing the Plant Assessment goals:

- Provide uniform methodology for categorizing new species that impact natural areas and agriculture.
- Provide clear explanation of the process and make it more transparent. Give credit for List A/B/C and watch list additions.
- Provide flexibility and be adaptive.
- Encourage contributions of data and documentation for new species.
- Educate policy makers, land managers, and the public about new invaders and their impacts.
- b. Original species list-the list of species to be considered for the weed list has been ongoing for years and consists of species of concern as reported by land managers and from the public. Hilary Drucker, a Colorado State University graduate student, wrote a thesis entitled: Developing Regional Invasive Species Watch List: Colorado as a Case Study. Based on Hilary's findings, Crystal incorporated the species found to have the highest invasion potential in Colorado into the assessment list. Crystal then presented a summary of the PAF work to date on the species that have been discussed over the last year by the Committee. The assessment from criteria was discussed. The criteria are: ecological impact, invasiveness, distribution, agricultural impact.
- c. A discussion on recommendations for selected species followed.
  - Serecia lespedeza (Lespedeza cuneata)-move from List A to Watch List
  - Yellow nutsedge (Cyperus esculentus)-move from List B to List C
  - Spiny cocklebur (Xanthium spinosum)-Watch list.
  - Elongated mustard (*Brassica elongata*)-no decision made, Crystal will discuss with Chaffee County Weed Manager, Larry Walker.
  - Meadow hawkweed (Hieracium caespitosum)-Watch list.

- Water lettuce (Pistia stratiotes)-Unlisted
- Skeletonleaf bursage (Ambrosia tomentosa)-native keep unlisted.
- Matrimony vine (Lycium barbarum)-Unlisted
- Grassleaf mat daisy (Hirpicum armeriodes)-Unlisted
- Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)-Tabled for now, CSU will do a PAF.

# d. The current status of the reviewed plants in 2010 are:

Common name	Scientific name	Designation
Arrowhead	Sagittataria sagittifolia	Unlisted
Asian mustard	Brassica tournefortii	Watch
Babysbreath	Gypsophila paniculata	Watch
Bathhurst burr	Xanthium spinosum	Watch
(Spiny cocklebur)		
Bulbous bluegrass	Poa bulbosa	C (new)
Common bugloss	Anchusa officianlis	Watch
Common iceplant	M. crystallinum	Unlisted
Common reed	Phragmites australis	Watch
Elongated mustard	Brassica elongata	On hold
Eurasian watermilfoil	Myriophyllum spicatum	В
Flowering rush	Butomus unbellatus	Watch
Giant reed	Adundo donax	A (New)
Giant salvinia	Salvinia molesta	Α
Grassleaf mat daisy	Hirpicum armeriodes	Unlisted
Hairy willow herb	Epilobium hirsutum	Watch
Himalayan blackberry	Rubus armeniacus	Watch
Hydrilla	Hydrilla verticillata	Α
Japanese bloodgrass	Imperata cylindrical	Watch
(Cogongrass)		
Japanese knotweed	Polygonum cuspidatum	A (New)
Matrimony vine	Lycium barbarum	Unlisted
Meadow hawkweed	Hieracium caespitosium	Watch
Onionweed	Asphodelius fistulosus	Watch
Quackgrass	Elytrigia repens	В
Pampasgrass	Cortideria jubata	Watch
Scotch broom	Sytisus scoparius	Watch
Sericea lespedeza	Lespedeza cuneata	Watch (Delisted from A)
Siberian peashrub	Caragana arborescens	Unlisted
Skeletonleaf bursage	Ambrosia tomentosa	Unlisted
Swainsonpea	Sphaerophysa salsula	Watch
Syrian bean caper	Zygophyllum fabago	Watch
Tree of heaven	Ailanthus altissima	Unlisted
Water hyacinth	Eichhornia crassipes	Watch
Water lettuce	Pistia stratiotes	Unlisted

White byrony Brvonia alba Watch Wild caraway Carum carvi В Wild parsnip Pastinaca sativa Unlisted Woodland draba Draba nemorosa Unlisted Wooly distaff thistle Carthamus lanatus Watch Yellow bedstraw Galium verum Unlisted

Yellow nutsedge Cyperus esculentus C (Delisted from B)

Yellow sweetclover Melilotus officinalis Unlisted

e. Watch List Discussion-Eric stated that the Watch List needs to be defined and that there aren't unlimited resources to deal with everything as we would like to. Karen referred to the May 26, 2010 meeting minutes. In May, Kelly Uhing referred to New Mexico's Watch List. That may be found here: <a href="http://nmdaweb.nmsu.edu/animal-and-plant-protection/noxious-weeds/weed\_memo\_list.pdf">http://nmdaweb.nmsu.edu/animal-and-plant-protection/noxious-weeds/weed\_memo\_list.pdf</a>. In general Watch List species are species that are priorities in surrounding states but not yet a found in Colorado or have just been detected.

#### 6. Review of Yellow/white sweetclover letter

a. Susan reviewed the letter, drafted by Committee member Terri Schulz. The letter was drafted to provide information about the impacts of using yellow/white sweetclover as a reclamation species. The target audience is agencies and organizations associated with land management and stewardship in Colorado. Discussion followed on the merits and the drawbacks of yellow sweet clover. On the positive side, Randy Malcom said that it is beneficial as it is good feed for cows. It is a pollinator species for bees. Some of the negative impacts were reviewed. Eric pointed out that the long-term repercussions of yellow sweet clover should be looked at. The potential problem is yellow sweetclover moving from its planted origins and spreading into natural areas. It degrades the habitat of the Lesser Prairie-chicken, which is listed as a threatened species in Colorado. One of the initial concerns that led to the drafting of the letter was the use of yellow sweetclover in southeastern Colorado. That region is Lesser Prairie-chicken habitat. Don Hijar stated that the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Conservation Reserve Program does mention yellow sweetclover in their Guidelines for Pollinators. He mentioned Allan Green of the NRCS as a contact. The letter should add that there are alternative native species mixtures available that are pollinator friendly. Jim Walker said that the draft yellow sweetclover letter has been circulated throughout CDOT. His agency will treat it in the normal course of their management operations but will not aggressively seek it out as a primary target. Susan wrapped up the discussion by saying that it may not be a bad plant in all instances but that there are impacts when a native plant stand is being established or when protection of native rangelands is the goal. Alternatives are available. Karen made the motion to send the letter out with the aforementioned minor changes stressing the options, Don seconded. The motion carried. Susan will send out the letter on behalf of the Committee. The letter will need to be addressed to specific individuals within organizations

with all contact groups listed on the letter so that everyone knows that the letter is inclusive.

- 7. Subcommittee reports-Susan stated that because of time constraints the Committee would not be breaking out into the subcommittees, we will try to do this at the next meeting. She then asked for updates from each subcommittee.
  - a. Executive Subcommittee update by Steve A. & Susan. Steve started off by pointing out that this subcommittee consists of the Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, and the State Weed Coordinator. The group works with the SWC on preparing the agenda and processing the minutes. Karen pointed out that the 2009 document, Sub-committees for the State Advisory Committee, has descriptions for all the subcommittees. We will provide a condensed version of those here for each subcommittee.

The primary emphasis of the Executive Subcommitte is to:

- Provide leadership and support for the Advisory Committee and subcommittees.
- Work with the SWC to schedule, plan, and host quarterly meetings.
- Distribute minutes of each Advisory Committee meeting within 2 weeks after each meeting and to provide meeting agendas approximately 2 weeks prior to each meeting.

2011 members: Susan Panjabi-Chair, Karen Scopel-Vice-Chair, Steve Anthony-Secretary, Steve Ryder-State Weed Coordinator.

- b. Site Led Approach-update by Susan. Susan said that the subcommittee has drafted a recommended approach to prioritize weed management efforts across the state in specific areas. This draft needs to be sent out by the SWC to land managers and weed coordinators for comment.
  - The primary emphasis has been to review and restructure Goal #4 of Colorado's Strategic Plan to Stop the Spread of Noxious Weeds. That goal states: Restore lands of exceptional agricultural and environmental value.

2011 members: Susan Panjabi, Terri Schultz, Jimmy Dunn, Jim Walker, Ken Harper

c. Funding & Policy-update by Steve A. Steve reported on the new legislation that was enacted in 2010. This makes Conservation Trust Fund dollars available for weed management for counties and conservation districts. They must apply to their local jurisdiction for these funds and there are parameters attached to the funds. Steve commented that the Colorado Weed Management Association (CWMA) has a legislative agenda for 2011 and that it would be beneficial if CDA and CWMA reconnect to get on the same page. Eric will have more to say on this later on in the agenda. Steve talked about past projects including a comparison of the Seed Act, Nursery Act, and Weed Law noxious weed lists. The real estate disclosure form effort was also mentioned.

The primary emphasis of this subcommittee is to:

- Support and lobby for maintenance and/or increase of the State Noxious Weed Management Fund and develop a process for distributing funds to projects across the State,
- Track and report on other funding sources for weed management in Colorado,
- Develop a relationship with and liaise with members of the state general assembly, and
- Track and affect policies that impact state weed management.

2011 members: Sheila Grother, Steve Anthony, Fred Midcap

- d. **Communication & Education**-update by Karen. Karen discussed the goal of developing outreach packets similar to the old *Weed Wise* project. Another goal is to continue engaging municipalities to get them to follow the weed law and the rules/regulations. The primary emphasis of this subcommittee is to:
  - Provide outreach and education support to the advisory committee and the noxious weed management program,
  - Develop and distribute outreach and education materials, and
  - Engage and motivate priority community partners, stakeholders and decision-makers to participate in weed management.

2011 members: Karen Scopel, Phyllis Lake, Randy Malcom, Margaret Paget

- e. **Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR)**-update by Crystal. Crystal discussed the need to extend reporting networks among land managers for new species of concern. A strategic plan for EDRR needs to be drafted. Education on new and Watch List species is a priority.
  - 2011 members: Crystal Andrews, Fred Midcap, Susan Panjabi, Elizabeth Brown, Denny Bohon, Margaret Paget, Steve Anthony, Sheila Grother
- f. **Science**-update by Scott. The subcommittee took on the plant assessment task in 2010 and completed 43 evaluations. Scott and George Beck split the task with their respective graduate students. The subcommittee helps ensure that decisions made by the Advisory Committee are based on the best available science. The subcommittee has also worked on the Railroad ROW plan

The primary emphasis for the sub-committee is to:

- Review and further develop the protocol for evaluating plant species for designation as a state noxious weed,
- Evaluate any proposed new plant species designations or changes to current designations on the weed list using the assessment tool,
- Guide development of management plans for weed list species,
- Provide as needed, scientific input to the Advisory Committee,
- Support and coordinate statewide mapping effort, and

 Work with the CDA staff to annually coordinate county surveys for weed species under review.

2011 members: Scott Nissen, Jay Jutten, Don Hijar, Crystal Andrews, George Beck

- 8. Filling term-limited Committee positions-Eric reviewed the openings on the Committee and explained how they were filled. Two agricultural producers' slots were open; those were filled by Fred Midcap and Ben Duke. Randy Malcom represents private landowners. Ken Harper fills the at-large seat. Twelve nominations came in from various agriculture groups and county weed managers. Eric explained that every effort is made to make the group as geographically diverse as possible. Later this year there will be 5 vacancies:
  - Scott Nissen representing Weed Science
  - Steve Anthony representing County Government
  - Jay Jutten representing Ag Producers
  - Jimmy Dunn representing Ag Producers
  - Susan Johnson representing Federal Weed Managers
- 9. Election of officers for 2011. The Committee selected the following as the 2011 officers of the State Noxious Weed Advisory Committee:

Chair: Susan PanjabiVice-chair: Karen ScopelSecretary: Steve Anthony

10. Spruce Gulch Update. Eric reviewed the Spruce Gulch project for the new members, followed by an update on the progress made. Spruce Gulch is in Left Hand Canyon in the Arapaho/Roosevelt National Forest (ARNF) about 9 miles northwest of Boulder. The site was infested with spotted knapweed in the mid 1980's. The infested area is on private and public land and has spread over 100 acres of meadows, forest and riparian areas. The private landowner has been reluctant to use herbicides because of water quality concerns and prefers to deal with the issue by using biological controls and hand-pulling. The SWAC has expressed concern over this approach as spotted knapweed is designated for elimination in this site. Representatives of the Arapahoe/Roosevelt National Forest discussed the issue with the SWAC in 2010. Eric stated that while the goal is eradication the issue is how to attain that objective. Eric has received progress reports from Steve Popovich, Forest Botanist, and Bev Baker, Boulder Ranger District (both ARNF). He summarized those for the Committee and will send out the reports to the Committee via email. They organized, in partnership with Volunteers of Colorado, three weed removal events in the summer of 2010. Eric stated that progress has been made. Susan agreed and will send a letter of appreciation for the work done so far to the ARNF. Some concerns were expressed by Committee members. Scott mentioned his concern

regarding the approach and the claim of the biological controls leaving non-viable seeds. Steve Anthony asked Eric if the hand-pulling approach followed the CDA rules (8 CCR 1206-2) for the management of spotted knapweed. Eric stated that hand-pulling is an approved mechanical control by the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture but is obviously not the most cost-effective means of achieving eradication at this site. Acceptable methods must prevent flowering and the development of seed. The consensus of the Committee was that Susan will send an appreciation letter to the ARNF and will also try to set up a field trip to look at the project in August. The field trip would coincide with the August quarterly SWAC meeting.

11. List B Implementation. Eric and Crystal reviewed the List B history and process. List B species comprise the bulk of the listed noxious weed species in Colorado. They also have the broadest management objectives; eradication, containment, or suppression. Because of the amount of work involved the List B species have been reviewed at a rate of 4-6 species per year. There are 39 on the list, with fourteen left to evaluate. Once the List B species for a given year are determined, Crystal sends out a survey to county weed managers to determine if they have those species in their county. Once that is determined, Crystal sends out a quarter quad aerial photos to the weed managers. They estimate the amount of acres of those species. Once this information is gathered then the management plans are developed. The survey also helps determine the current distribution of List A species. In 2011 the following List B species will be reviewed for management plans:

Common teasel (Dipascus fullonum)
 Cutleaf teasel (Dipascus lacinatus)
 Dame's rocket (Hesperis matronalis)
 Jointed goatgrass (Aegilops cylindrica)
 Moth mullein (Verbascum blattaria)

## 12. Upcoming legislative and budget issues:

Update by Eric. Eric has had discussions with Fred Raish, CWMA Legislative Committee Chair. CWMA does have a legislative agenda for the state legislature's 2011 sessions. They do not intend to request funding for weed management programs this year; however they may request that the legislature look at the weed law, specifically the section on the enforcement process. Some, but not all, counties have issues with the enforcement procedures. Eric discussed funding and reported that Commissioner Stulp has approved 200k in discretionary funds to be used for the Weed Fund. However this decision could be reversed by a new commissioner if one is appointed.

## 13. Meeting schedule for 2011:

- January 27 CDA, Lakewood 10AM-2:30PM
- May 18/19 (tentative) Field trip & quarterly meeting; location TBD
- August 17/18 Spruce Gulch field trip & quarterly meeting (dates & location tentative)
- October 26 CDA Lakewood 10AM-2:30PM

14. Adjourn-the meeting was adjourned by Chair Susan Panjabi at 2:30PM.